

BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER

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BRIDGEPORT'S BIGGEST, BEST CHRISTMAS.

CHRISTMAS in Bridgeport was bigger and better than ever before. The merchandising of the retail stores, the business done by the post office, by the express companies and by the railroad was proof of the high tide of material prosperity. That Christmas was better, as well as bigger, is proved in many ways. There is testimony that gifts represented more generally a combination of beauty with utility, than used to be the case. Less trash was sold. Useful articles were more pleasing to the eye and to the mind.

A tremendous business was done in labor-saving devices to make housework easier. Women's monotonous work was made easier and pleasanter in many homes. Such testimonials to the increasing wisdom and judgment of the people are not to be overlooked, in estimating progress.

Everybody says there was less intemperance in eating and drinking than in any earlier time. The Red Light district, prolific source of grievous evils, was for the first time absent, in itself no dim light upon the improvement of the times.

The amusements offered for the comfort of the citizens stood upon a higher plane, than even a year ago. The improvement over the amusements of five and ten years ago was enormous, in the quality of what was offered and in the democratization of the theatres, through the moving picture, so that no person was too poor to have the world of ideals at his disposal.

And the same welcome tendency was shown in the book stores, which never before contained so many volumes, of such high grade knowledge, at such democratic prices.

These simple manifestations of a changing environment, which are to have such wholesome and complex results in the future, are but a view of a few of the many things proving that Bridgeport's Christmas was bigger and better than ever before.

This bigger and better Christmas rested immediately upon an improvement in the condition of labor. It was made possible by the eight-hour day and the higher wage. The eight-hour day, lessening the fatigue of the people, increased their buoyancy and brought them to the Christmas celebration with a healthy energy not before known.

The higher wages and the abundant work gave them the material means to share more than ever before in the satisfactions of the times. Bridgeport can have the pleasure of this knowledge. The good conditions here contributed to make conditions better everywhere. The market cannot swell in Bridgeport without increasing in some degree everywhere else.

From Christmas 1916 this lesson is to be drawn: that community will be the most prosperous, in which prosperity is enjoyed by the most people. Prosperity stops short of its highest point—far short—unless it reaches those who actually do the work, who are those who bear most of the weight and burden of our modern society.

RECENT FIRE LOSSES.

THE recent decided jump in fire losses, occurring after years of comparative immunity may be the result of coincidence. There is a tendency for disasters of every kind to concentrate into short periods of time.

But, on the other hand, it will not be wise to forget that the fire department has recently been tampered with, if not precisely to make it an instrument for political use, yet to gratify the impulses, ambitions or whims, of politicians.

Shall we say that the jump in fire losses is merely an accident or, that it is a natural consequence of turning a fire fighting organization into a political organization?

EFFICIENCY VS. INEFFICIENCY.

THOSE who are interested in facts relating to the comparative efficiency of government service and railroad service may compare the work of the post office in Bridgeport with the work of the freight office here.

In the one case all packages, a very great number, are handled with system, energy and intelligence. Christmas day everything is done and out of the way.

But in the freight office everything is in chaos. Cars are where they happen to be. Freight which has been literally for weeks in Bridgeport, is undelivered, or out of reach.

Yet there are thoughtful persons who will continue to believe that the New Haven railroad is a miracle of efficiency, and the United States Post Office a wonder for inefficiency.

When the American people become a little prouder of their government, and become conscious of the carefully fostered superstition about the efficiency of the privately owned railroads, they will be ready to take the next forward step for the country's lasting good. They will nationalize their railroads.

Then there will be good and equal service to all shippers. Nobody will loot the railroads any more, and the courts will be saved the large expense of indicting and trying railroad directors.

Policemen Report On Sunday Picture Shows

Superintendent Eugene Birmingham is in receipt of reports from the policemen ordered to investigate the conditions at the moving picture theatres that gave performances yesterday.

With the exception of one theatre the proprietors complied with the orders issued concerning the opening of moving picture houses on Sunday. At one theatre an attendant stands inside the door and informs patrons that the price is 15 cents downstairs and 10 cents in the balcony. This matter will be referred to Mayor Clifford B. Wilson.

At most houses signs are posted saying that silver collections will be taken at the door. At a theatre on Oak street some persons donated 10 cents, some five cents and others nothing but all were furnished with seats, according to the report submitted by Policeman Patrick Boland. At the Elite theatre at 3214 Main street and another theatre at 1226 Main street signs are visible with the word-

ing "Pay as you please." Orderly conduct was maintained at all theatres. The policemen who attended the theatre performances are: Edward T. Bailey, John Dunn, J. A. Burns, Harry Greene, Otto Kraft, Patrick Boland, Patrick Burns, Albert E. Langham and John J. Kelly.

STEAMER RUNS AGROUND
London, Dec. 27.—The steamship Niue Amsterdam, which sailed from New York, Dec. 14, for Palmouth and Rotterdam, grounded at Forkepit, abreast of Deal, on leaving the Downs this morning. She got off at noon and proceeded.

Prince von Buelow has returned to Germany from a visit to Switzerland. The Red Star liner Lapland arrived yesterday at New York from Liverpool.

Christmas was quietly celebrated by the American and British residents of Petrograd.

Elmer Jenks, of Quenno, Kan., 3 1/2 years old, spelled 242 words without a mistake.

18,000,000 Church Folk Represented at Meeting



Representatives of 18,000,000 communicants of Christian churches in America are expected to attend a North American church unity conference in Garden City, N. Y., for three days, beginning Jan. 5. The call for the conference was issued last June. Bishop Anderson of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Chicago will issue the address of welcome to the delegates. Among the other prominent speakers, all of whom are men of note in their respective denominations, are the Rev. Dr. William H. Roberts, stated clerk of the Presbyterian general assembly, and the Rev. Dr. William T. Manning, rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal church of New York.

THE HAPSBURG.

The house of Hohenzollern, which now rules the destinies of the Teutonic peoples, has just attained the 600th year of its reign. The house of Hapsburg, formerly the dominant royal family of Germany, and which, in the person of the aged Francis Joseph, now controls the polyglot Austro-Hungarian empire, is even older, the 600th anniversary of the establishment of the Hapsburgs having been celebrated 23 years ago today, Dec. 27, 1882. Hapsburg, or Hawk's Castle, on a lofty eminence near the right bank of the Aar, was built in the eleventh century and gave its name to the imperial house of Austria. The castle is now in ruins. The first count of Hapsburg was Werner, who lived in the latter part of the eleventh century, but it was not until 890 years later that one of his descendants, Rudolph, was elected emperor of Germany and archduke of Austria. He conquered Ottocar of Bohemia, and gave his provinces, Austria, Styria and Carinthia, to his son Albert, who became German emperor. From the reign of Frederic III, who died in the sixteenth century, the Hapsburgs became dominant in Spain, the Spanish line becoming extinct in 1700. The chief Swiss possessions of the Hapsburgs were lost as early as the fourteenth century.

Repeated earthquakes have been reported at Guatemala from central and southern Guatemala.

Nine of the laws passed last winter become effective on Jan. 1, 1916, and one on Jan. 1, 1918.

William C. Hayes of New York, for 15 years supervisor of locomotive operations for the Erie railroad, is dead.

A small stone found near Vera Cruz, Mexico, has been identified as the oldest known dated antiquity in America.

Christmas presents and greetings from all over the country flooded the President and his bride.

BOOTS

Men's Short Boots...\$3.00 up
Men's Storm King Boots \$3.75 up
Men's Sporting Boots...\$4.75 up

MEN'S FELT BOOTS

1-buckle Felt and Overs...\$2.39 up
2-buckle Felt and Overs...\$2.69 up
2-buckle Felt and Overs, rolled edge...\$3.39 up

RUBBERS

Men's heavy rolled edge Rubbers...\$1.00
Men's plain Rubbers...95c
Boys' Rubbers...69c up
Youths' Rubbers...59c up
Misses' Rubbers...49c up
Children's Rubbers...43c up

ARCTICS

Men's 1-buckle Arctics...98c to \$1.69
Men's 4-buckle Arctics...\$2.59 to \$2.79

THE ALLING RUBBER CO.
1126 MAIN STREET

The Store
Closes Every Day at
6 o'clock

The D. M. Read Co.

Established 1857

All Tags
In the Basement at
Half Price

Sale of Women's Wear Suits, Coats, Lingerie, Corsets and Dresses



Women's and Children's Winter Coats

All Coats this season's styles. Materials, Kerseys and Novelty Worsteds, many of them fur trimmed that have been up to \$35.00.

Sizes 14 years to 52 for women
Corduroy and Plush Coats. Were \$20.00, \$25.00 and \$30.00, now \$16.50
Coats of elegant design which have been \$40.00 and \$50.00, now \$27.50

Coats of Novelty Materials, including fine Imported Mixtures. Were \$15.00 and \$16.50, now \$10.00

Were \$20.00 and \$25.00, now \$16.50
Were \$35.00 and \$40.00, now \$25.00

Children's Coats, ages 6 to 14 years, all models, which were up to \$7.50, now \$3.95

Hats

All Hats of whatever style are at generous reductions. If a Hat suits you, the price will be made reasonable.

The Priscilla Magazine for January

Ready at the Art Section. 10 cts a copy, \$1.00 for year's subscription.

The D. M. Read Co.
Established 1857

RADFORD B. SMITH

FAIRFIELD AVE. VARIETY STORE BROAD ST.
CO-OPERATIVE CAR FARE FOR CUSTOMERS
PROFIT SHARING WITH EMPLOYEES

COUPON GOOD TUESDAY, DEC. 28

BIG FISH POND GAME
With Coupon
Tuesday
5c

HERE IS A CHANCE TO GET ONE OF THE BEST GAMES AT AN UNHEARD OF PRICE

LOT FINE IMPORTED DOLLS slightly mused in the Christmas rush at ridiculously low prices.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS CLUBS, SOCIETIES and other quantity buyers will be allowed 25 per cent. discount on toys, games and books this week.

VISCOUNT DANGAN, 25 TODAY, SEEKS FAME IN THE THEATRE

Christian Arthur Wellesley, Viscount Dangan, son and heir of the third Earl Cowley, and known to the theatres of England and America as Arthur Wellesley, was a Christmas gift to his parents just a quarter of a century ago. The heir to an earldom has apparently taken his theatrical aspirations quite seriously, as he has now devoted several years to his efforts to shine on the stage. He was originally destined for the army, and once held a commission in the Fifth Lancers, but he didn't like army life, declaring that it was "too conventional." His theatrical debut was in the humble role of a scene painter's assistant, and for some months he worked for a wage of \$6 a week. His ability as a dancer, which won for him the nickname of the "Waltzing Viscount," at last enabled him to get a music hall engagement, and later a small part in the Gaiety company. He received \$10 a week as a chorus man in "The Sun-

shine Girl." While with the Gaiety company he fell in love with Pearl Aufrere, an actress and famous post card beauty, but she jilted him and married another man shortly after the Viscount sailed with the Gaiety company for a New York engagement two years ago. While in New York with the "The Girl on the Film" company the young nobleman paid his devotion to Miss May Picard, an American actress. This time he was more successful, and when he returned to England he took with him the actress as his bride. Her ladyship has since presented the titled actor with a son.

Viscount Dangan was cut adrift by his father some years ago, but as he is in the good graces of his uncle and aunt, Lord and Lady Hythe, who are very wealthy, it is not likely that he has taken to the stage from financial necessity. The Viscount at one time spent several weeks as a cab driver in London. Viscount Dangan is a descendant of the great Duke of Wellington's brother. His father, Earl Cowley, has had many domestic vicissitudes. He has been three times married, twice divorced, and once sued for breach of promise, the plaintiff, Miss

Tailored Suits, Coats and Evening Dresses at Clearance Prices

Tailored Suits

An examination of these prices and the exceedingly tempting reductions

Tailored Suits of mannish cloths. Fur-trimmed and plain Tailored Suits, some of corduroy and velvet that were \$20.00, now \$12.50

Models of fine chiffon broadcloths, poplins, velvets and serges that are plain and trimmed, were \$25.00, now \$16.50

Desirable models of velvet, corduroy and broadcloths in wide variety, were \$30.00 and \$35.00, now \$19.50

Richly trimmed with Skunk and Natural Beaver, one only of each style, colors taupe, brown and navy blue, were \$50.00, now \$27.50

Suits, Sable and Beaver trimmed, that were \$75.00, now \$45.00

One Model Suit of taupe with 5 inch Mole Skin border on coat, new bell cuffs of Mole Skin, coat 45 inches long, regular price \$135.00, now \$75.00

One Model Suit, each of brown and wisteria satin, shawl collar of Skunk, also bell cuffs and 5 inch border of Skunk. The coats of these suits can be used as evening wrap. Regular price \$150.00, now \$95.00

Special Sale of Lingerie



Gowns in great assortment, embroidered and lace trimmed, many of them new and fresh, others soiled and mused from handling.

98cts, \$1.50 and up

Corset Covers, all sizes, lace and embroidery trimmed, 50cts.

Drawer Combinations. 98 cts
Embroidered Open Drawers. sizes 23, 25 and 27 50 cts

La Grecque Skirt Combinations. lace trimmed, sizes 34, 36 to 46
Marcella Drawers. lace and embroidery trimmed, all sizes, at 59 cts

\$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.65
Very Special
Were \$1.00 and \$1.25 79 cts
Were \$2.00 and \$2.50 95 cts

Corsets, Special Values

Many of the most reliable makes, some discontinued numbers and incomplete lines of sizes, were \$3.00, \$5.00, \$6.50 to \$10.00.

At 95 cts and \$1.50

De Bevoise Brassieres

All sizes, perfectly fresh and new for this sale.

Made to sell at \$.50, for 35c
Made to sell at \$1.00, for 50c
Made to sell at \$1.50, for 75c

The D. M. Read Co.
Established 1857

Phyllis Broughton, having been awarded \$50,000 damages. He was divorced by his first wife, Lady Violet Neville, the mother of Viscount Dangan.

Theodore A. Hiebau, of New York, will complete half a century of service in the New York Post Office on Friday night.

Three deer have been killed by trains on different branches of the New York Central railroad in the last two days.

Want Ads. One Cent a Word